



P.O.Box 29141, Windhoek, Namibia
Contact Chairman: Fax: +264-61-255 012
Cell: +264-81 247 3282
frametique@afol.com.na
www.nbaanamibia.com

President's Test 2019 – De Hoop Dam Namibia takes gold in Tri-nations

Namibia took part in the Presidents test as an invitational team consisting of 3 boats only. South Africa and Zimbabwe had full teams of 6 boats each competing at the event. This was Namibia's second time competing at the President's test.

The team left Windhoek in the early hours of the morning on Friday the 26th of July. It was a +- 1600km drive to the tournament venue at De Hoop. The team arrived at Thandabantu lodge situated about 20km from the dam where all teams from Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe would be accommodated for the tournament. We were received by John Wickam from the SA team who was the Tournmanet Director and responsible for most of the arrangements of the event. The event was very well organized and the accommodation, facilities and food where top class for such a remote location.

De Hoop dam is almost 20km in length and reaches depts of up to 70 meters. It has an almost constant inflow of water and is known for is signature landscape feature, the famous waterfall where many large bass have been caught. The water is crystal clean and one has visibility of up to 6 meters in some areas of the dam. The dam has a wide variety of structure to fish, from trees as far as the eye can see to flooded bush, reeds, rocks and peachleaf mats on the water, an absolute fishing haven and clearly one of South Africa's premier fishing destinations.

Namibia competed for the Tri-Nations cup. The format of this competition was that Namibia fished against 3 boats of South Africa and Zimbabwe. The first day we fished againsts the boat 1 to 3 of each country, the second day boat 4 – 6 of each country and then on day 3 a draw of 3 boats from each country. Scoring was done on 0.5 points per fish (limit of 5 fish per boat) and total bag weight, 1 point per kg of fish. The country with the highest total score over the 3 days was the winner.

The event started on Monday the 29th of July with two practice days (Monday and Tuesday) to give each country the opportunity to prepare a strategy for the 3 day tournament that started on Wednesday the 31st of July.

The team quite quickly realized that fishing was not going to be easy as a cold front had just passed and another was on the way in that same week. We did however manage to stumble across one or two patterns quite early in practice and also realized that we would have to "save" fish and not catch all the fish that were resident in an identified area all on the same day.

The Namibian boat pairings were as follows:

Boat 1 – Thinus Williams (Captain of the team)
Boat 2 – Andrew Hal and Duan Kotze
Boat 3 – Nic Kruger and Alec Williams

After day one of the tournament Namibia was in 3rd place but the scores for all countries were quite close and Boat 2 of Namibia caught a very nice bag ending up as second best bag of the day.

Executive Council:

Richard Grant (Chairman) • Alec Williams (Vice Chairman) • Collette Carstens (Secretary) • Neels van Tonder (Treasurer)
Malcolm Goosen (Tournament Director) • Hendrik Pretorius (Conservation Officer) • Anton de Wit (Development Officer)
• Andrew Hall (Public Relations Officer)



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Day two was a very good day for Namibia and our strategy seemed to pay off as all boats improved their previous day's positions overtaking South Africa by moving into second position.

Day three the Namibian team stuck to its guns with a fighting spirit and working as a tight knit unit to take first position with Boat 2 ending up as the best boat of the tournament.

The final result of the Tri Nations was as follows:

1. Namibia
2. South Africa
3. Zimbabwe

Boat 2 of Namibia (Andrew Hall / Duan Kotze) won best boat of the tournament with heaviest average bag over 3 days and Boat 3 of Namibia (Nic Kruger and Alec Williams) ended in 6th position for average bag over 3 days out of a total of 15 boats.

The President's Team would like to thank the NBAA for making it possible for us to compete in such events. The team would also like to thank the Main Sponsor, Momentum Insurance Namibia for their very generous sponsorship and making it possible for the team to attend the event. We would also like to thank African Eyes Optomotrist and KTE Namibia for their sponsorships and support!

Yours Sincerely
Andrew Hall
Public Relations Officer
Namibian Bass Angling Association.

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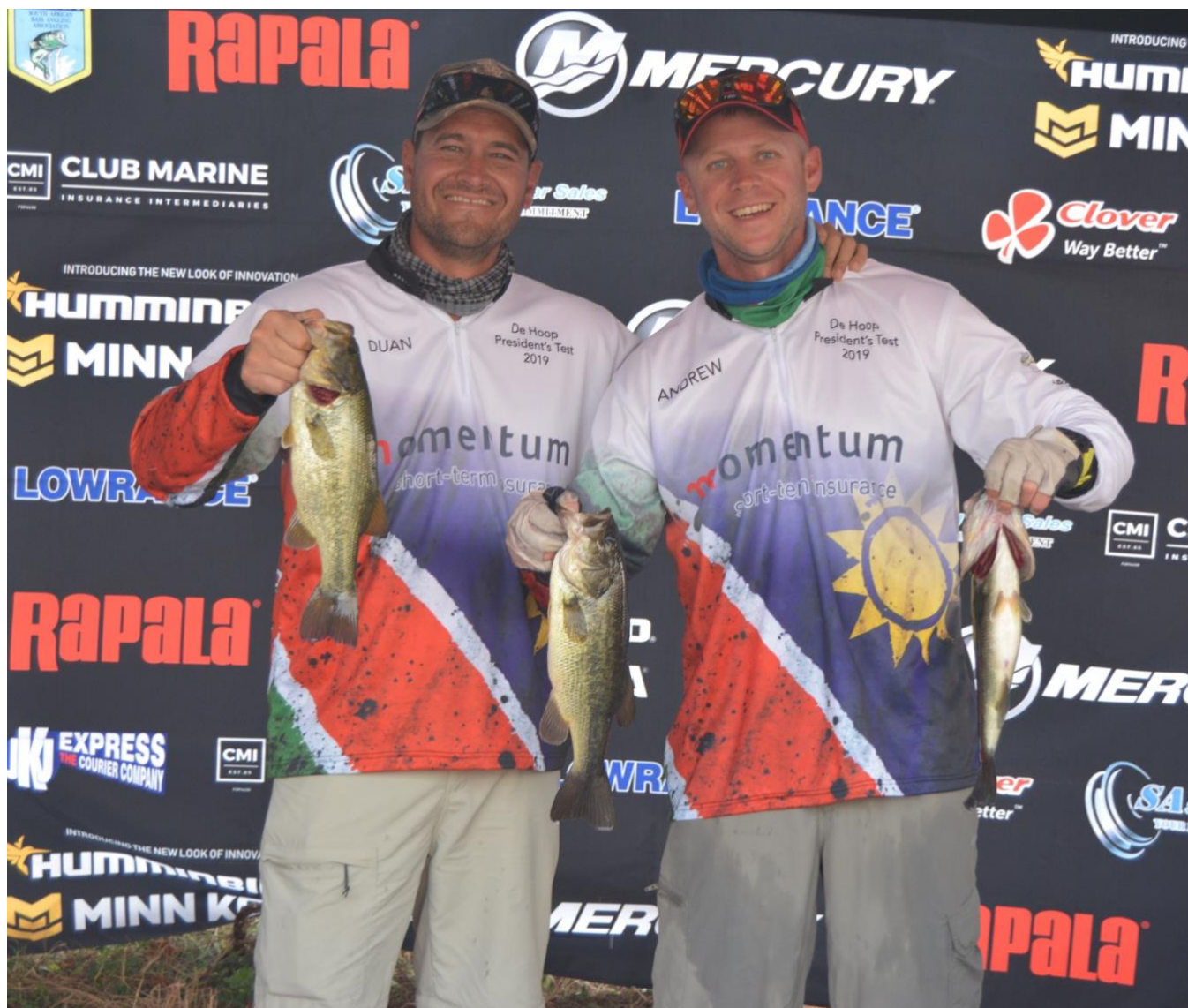
Left to Right: Nic Kruger, Thinus Williams, Alec Williams, Duan Kotze and Andrew Hall

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Left to Right: Duan Kotze and Andrew Hall

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Thinus Williams

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Alec Williams

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Nic Kruger

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